



Librarians are Superheroes!

by Tammi Thiem



What is YOUR superpower?

The librarians in Ukraine have been busy. They are offering shelter to families from the bomb raids; they are making camouflage nets; they are countering disinformation; their libraries are used as sites for organizing reception points, hostels, and logistics for refugees; they are offering home care courses; they are sending books to neighboring countries for the Ukrainian refugees; and, of course, they are offering books to the children and families. The Ukrainian Library Association had to postpone their international conference, but their strong tweet stated, "We will reschedule just as soon as we have finished vanquishing our invaders." Several libraries in Ukraine have been destroyed by Russian bombings. Read more about that [here](#).

When Nebraska was ravaged by floods in 2019, various groups wanted to get information out to the victims in order to offer help. Where did they go? Libraries, of course! They knew that libraries are community-oriented. Librarians have their finger on the pulse of their communities and know how best to get information to the residents in need. Librarians were able to share that information and spread word about help that was available in a time of need.

During the pandemic, librarians stepped up to the challenges. They made efforts to offer services to their patrons even when their doors had to be closed. Curbside service; virtual story times; take and make kits; electronic material collection items; endless zoom meetings; and many other creative offerings were provided. Libraries still remain sources for information about the pandemic, and several have become locations for community members to obtain Covid test kits. Even during non-crisis times, libraries are meaningful for their communities. Librarians are forever monitoring the needs of their communities. They are constantly evaluating the services that are available and considering whether these are sufficiently meeting the needs of the patrons. Librarians are always on the lookout for new, fresh ideas that may well serve the community. Being a librarian means to continually learn, grow, and evolve. Librarians are flexible, as they have to be prepared for the next challenge, at the ready to help wherever possible.

Librarians, wear your cardigan capes proudly. Your impact on the world may not be noticeable in the day-to-day exchanges, but it is there. Your influence on the young minds that you help to shape may not be readily apparent, but it is there. The effect you may have on the patrons who rely on your services may not be expressed, but it is there. Hopefully none of the wonderful Nebraska librarians will ever have to go to those extremes of our Ukrainian counterparts, but if it came to that, I have no doubt that you would be there.

Librarians truly ARE superheroes.

As always, if there is anything I can do to help, please feel free to contact me. My email address is tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com. My phone number is 402-910-7005. I would love to hear from you!



At the TRaiLS Office

TRaiLS Summer Reading Workshops

Article by Tammi Thiem

The Three Rivers Library System hosted two separate workshops about Summer Reading. The first was held at the Raymond Whitwer Public Library in Tilden on Tuesday, January 11th, and the second was held at the Blair Public Library and Technology Center on Wednesday, January 12th. It was a great turnout for both locations, as everyone was excited to attend in-person events again.

It was a truly hybrid event. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission offered a recording that shared all of the great resources that they have available, and many of them reflect the Collaborative Summer Library Program theme of “Oceans of Possibilities.” Sally Snyder joined us via Zoom for a synchronous presentation about all of the wonderful books that would pair nicely with summer reading activities. The Nebraska Extension Office offered in-person presentations sharing all of the creative ideas and resources that they have available to share with librarians. I (Tammi Thiem) provided a demonstration of a breakout box challenge with the “Oceans of Possibilities” theme for the attendees. Time was spent sharing ideas for crafts, activities, books, scheduling, advertising, and everything else that librarians do to create successful Summer Reading Programs for their community members.

These workshops were recorded and are available on the Three Rivers Library System’s YouTube channel. Some of the recorded sessions turned out great, but other parts leave a lot to be desired. As the primary focus of these workshops was the in-person audience, not all of the conversations were audible for the recording. Live and learn; practice makes perfect; better luck next time; and all of those other suitable idioms that hold true for this. I hope to get better at recording these, as it is great for everyone to learn from these events, not just those who are able to physically attend.



Tilden



Blair

TRaiLS Facebook Groups and Page

Article by Tammi Thiem

Are you one of the 100 members of the [Three Rivers Library Facebook group](#)? If so, THANK YOU! It is exciting to see everyone interacting with one another! Another option is the [TRaiLS School Librarians Facebook group](#) where you can ask questions or share information with other school librarians. The [Three Rivers Library System Facebook page](#) is a great source of information to keep track of events specifically for TRaiLS librarians. If you are not yet part of the groups or do not follow the page, please join in the fun!

At the TRailS Office

WORD SEARCH

The unused letters form a quote. Email the quote to Chelsea at trls.assistant@gmail.com by March 31st to have your name entered in a drawing for a gift!

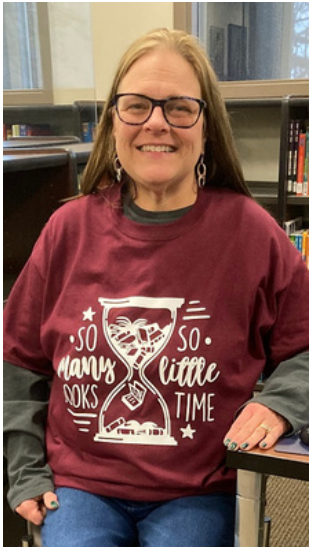
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AUTHORS	BOOKS	CATALOGING
CIRCULATION	COLLECTION	DATABASE
DISPLAYS	EDUCATION	ETHICS
FICTION	GENRE	INFORMATION
LEARNING	LITERACY	MAGAZINES
MEDIA	MOVIES	OVERDUE
PATRONS	PERIODICALS	POLICIES
PROGRAMS	READERS	REFERENCE
RESEARCH	RESOURCES	SHELVES
STACKS	STATISTICS	TECHNOLOGY

Winner of the TRailS newsletter puzzle challenge:
AMY MASEK from Clarkson College!
Congratulations, Amy!

The first puzzle challenge was a crossword puzzle. Amy successfully identified the anagram contained in the puzzle by rearranging the circled letters to spell "librarian." She sent this answer to Chelsea at trls.assistant@gmail.com to be included in the drawing. The prize was a t-shirt, made with the new Cricut Maker that was purchased by the Three Rivers Library System.

Information about the new Cricut Maker can be found [here](#). It is available for any TRailS librarian to borrow! You can also borrow the [Easy Press](#), and a [Cricut Joy](#) is an option that we have available for those smaller projects. There is a variety of vinyl available for use with these, but please feel free to make requests if there may be something that we do not have. Be sure to look for the puzzle in this newsletter for your chance to be the next prize winner!

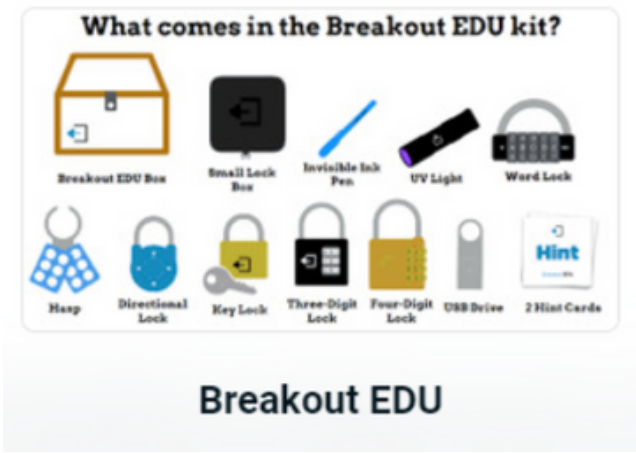


At the TRaILS Office

Breakout Boxes

Article by Tammi Thiem

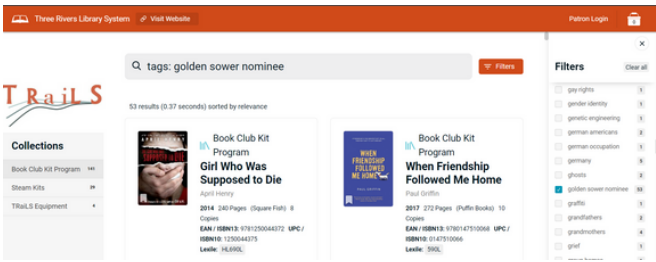
If you attended one of the Summer Reading workshops in January, you were able to experience a breakout box challenge first hand! The Three Rivers Library System has a couple of **Breakout EDU kits** available to be checked out by TRaILS librarians. I have created several challenges that everyone is welcome to use. The link for these is [here](#), and keep in mind that these are ever-changing as more are added or updated. I do have these homemade options available in laminated sets, so these are also available to be checked out. If my schedule allows, I would love to go to your library as an assistant if you choose to do these! Another option is the **Breakout EDU website**. There are numerous challenges available to choose from, and many of these are free. If you decide to pay a yearly fee, you can get access to even more challenges on many different topics and themes. They often have a two-week trial period available, so what a great opportunity to peruse their website and explore all they have to offer. I think they are great fun, and they are usually educational!



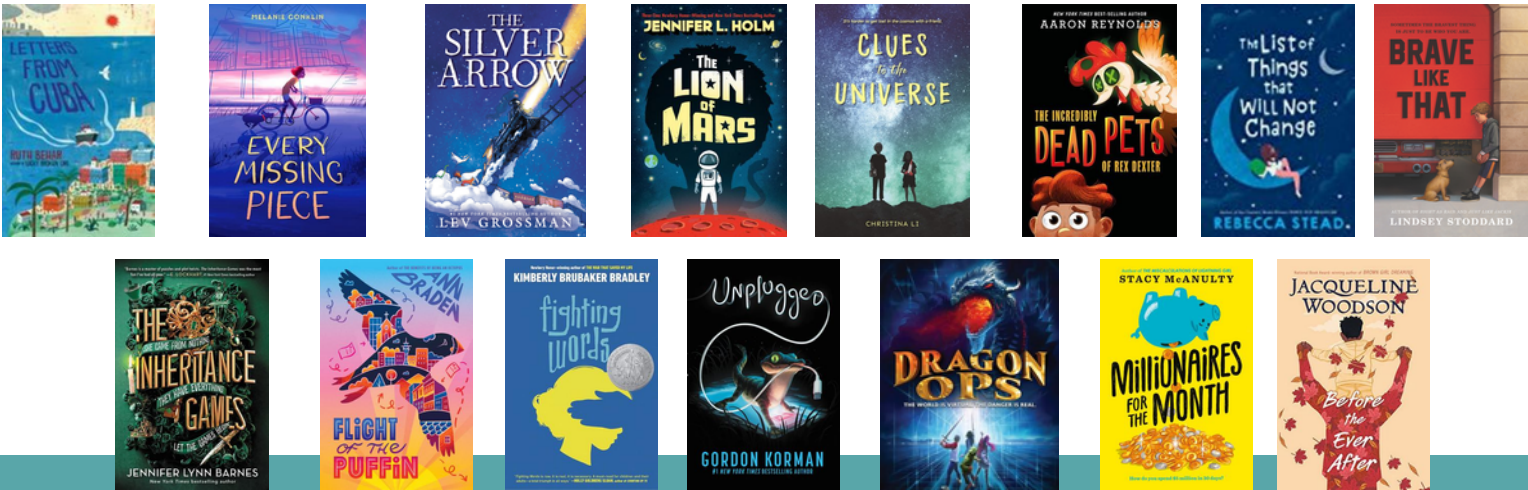
2022 - 2023 Golden Sower Nominees in Libib

Article by Chelsea Morlan

As I'm sure you all know, the TRaILS Office is chocked full of book kits all available for our member libraries to borrow. But did you know that we've been adding the **2022 - 2023 Golden Sower Nominees** the last few months? Get your class or book group reading so you can participate in voting. You can see every book kit title on our **Libib site**, but if you're looking for just the Golden Sower Nominees -- check out our tags on the right side of the screen or in the search bar, just type tags: golden sower nominee. Looking for a read alike? Click on one of the orange tags under a title and see what other books use that tag.



Look at the nominees we currently have! But also, be sure to check back to see any new books when we add them.



Meet the TRaILS Board

Dave Graber
Treasurer

Dave Graber is the Library Director at Wayne State College and has worked at WSC for more than 25 years. Prior to becoming Library Director in 2006 he worked as the Electronic Services Librarian for WSC. In addition to serving as Library Director Dave gets to teach an occasional US History class or Honors Colloquium for the college. The highlight of his career remains taking a lead role in the WSC Library renovation. The renovation project spanned several years and transformed a badly outdated building into a campus showpiece. Please consider visiting the WSC Library sometime soon if you haven't already done so!

Dave has served on the TRaILS Board since 2018 and has enjoyed learning so much more about the libraries and librarians in Northeast Nebraska. Beyond his academic life, Dave keeps busy as a weekend farmer, growing corn and soybeans with his brother.



Upcoming Workshop

THREE RIVERS LIBRARY
SYSTEM PRESENTS:



This Month's Topic: Policies

Get together with librarians near you to Share Knowledge, Ideas, Learning, and Library Solutions! You are welcome to join any or all of the meetings for networking and discussions. They will be worth 2 Continuing Education Credits each. If your plans allow, stick around for lunch afterwards.

Research has shown that networking with fellow librarians is beneficial professional development that improves professional practice, promotes shared leadership, and helps people remain in the profession. Do NOT feel guilty when you leave your library for these meetings because isolation is unproductive.

Register at: <http://bit.ly/SKILLSMeeting>

2 May 2022 at 9:30 am - 11:30 am at St. Edward Public Library

3 May 2022 at 9:30 am - 11:30 am at Dakota City Public Library

9 May 2022 at 9:30 am - 11:30 am at Schuyler Public Library

10 May 2022 at 9:30 am - 11:30 am at Gretna Public Library



This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Basic Skills

(*Required Class)

Introduction to Cataloging (Organization of Materials)*

Registration Dates: 21 February 2022 - 18 March 2022

Class Dates: 1 April 2022 - 29 April 2022

Library Finance with Holli Duggan

Registration Dates: 14 March 2022 - 8 April 2022

Class Dates: 18 April 2022 - 29 April 2022

Intellectual Freedom / Core Values* with Holli Duggan

Registration Dates: 4 April 2022 - 2 May 2022

Class Dates: 9 May 2022 - 20 May 2022

Readers' Advisory

Registration Dates: 2 May 2022 - 30 May 2022

Class Dates: 6 June 2022 - 17 June 2022

NCompass Live Shows

If You Build it, Will They Come? Makerspaces Work in Small Rural Libraries

Show Date: 23 March 2022 at 10:00am - 11:00am

Pretty Sweet Tech - 3D Room Design Activity with TinkerCAD & Thingiverse

Show Date: 20 March 2022 at 10:00am - 11:00am

Expanding the Health Information Landscape in Your Public Library

Show Date: 6 April 2022 at 10:00am - 11:00am

Tweak Your Library's Social Media

Show Date: 13 April 2022 at 10:00am - 11:00am

Starting a Board Game Club at a Small Library

Show Date: 20 April 2022 at 10:00am - 11:00am

Pretty Sweet Tech - The 40 Day Challenge Initiative

Show Date: 27 April 2022 at 10:00am - 11:00am

Calendar of Events

SKILLS Meeting

Online via Zoom

17 March 2022

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries Meeting

Atrium Conference Center

18 March 2022

10:00am - 2:00pm

Plum Creek Picture Book Extravaganza

Concordia University

19 March 2022

SKILLS Meeting

Online via Zoom

22 March 2022

10:00am - 11:00am

SKILLS Meeting

Online via Zoom

30 March 2022

11:00am - 12:00pm

Apollo Biblionix Nebraska User Group Meeting

Seward Memorial Library

1 April 2022

9:00am - 3:00pm

SKILLS Meeting

Online via Zoom

7 April 2022

1:00pm - 2:00pm

SKILLS Meeting

Online via Zoom

12 April 2022

2:00pm - 3:00pm

SKILLS Meeting

Online via Zoom

20 April 2022

3:00pm - 4:00pm

SKILLS Meeting

Online via Zoom

28 April 2022

10:00am - 11:00am

Nebraska Library Commission Meeting

Nebraska Library Commission

13 May 2022

9:30am - 12:00pm

Library News

Tilden Public Library's Pizza Party

by Cindy Simeon

It's all about Pizza at the Tilden Public Library. They celebrated Library Lovers month with a **Library Lovers Pizza Party Raffle**, complete with a gift card for a pizza from our local restaurant for a pizza, bottles of soda, entertainment, and a variety of "pizza themed" items for the whole family. Everything you need for a fun filled Pizza Party! The drawing took place on Friday, February 18th.

The library also decorated the foyer for Valentines Day with children Mannequins baking cookies and decorating them for sale. The cookies are not edible, but were made by the staff using a flour and salt dough recipe and frosted with acrylic paint.



Lied Winside Public Library's Craft Day

Article by Lara Lanphear

At the Lied Winside Public Library, we had an adult craft day and created these fun Valentine's Day door hangers. They had a great time making them and took about 2 1/2 hours. A local carpenter made the wood shapes!



Library News

Lois Johnson Memorial Library's Summer Reading Mascots

by Tammi Thiem

The mascots are axolotls. They are sometimes called 'water dogs' as they were named after the Aztec god of fire and lightning, Xolotl, and the Aztec word for water, 'atl'. Axolotls are found in the southern part of Mexico City in lakes and canals. They spend their lives in water, and they can get up to one foot long and can weigh between 2.1 and 8 ounces. They eat worms, insect larvae, small crustaceans, and fish. They generally live for 10 - 15 years, and they usually do well in captivity. Axolotls are born without legs, but these develop after a few weeks. They are able to regrow body parts, including organs, such as hearts, spines, and brains. They are also able to accept organs and limbs from other axolotls with no rejection.



Hartington Public Library's Lost Hearts

Article by Tami Anderson

Queen of Heart Has Lost Her Hearts!

Help find her hearts in time for Valentine's Day! Solve the puzzles and clues required to open a box. Release the heart playing card inside. Place the playing cards in order to reveal the final clue and save Valentine's Day.

The Hartington Public Library set up a Lock Box Challenge for 3rd graders and up for Valentine's Day. We had 18 kids in teams of 3.

They LOVED it and did a great job of figuring out the clues in a timely manner. The Library's plan is to incorporate more challenges on a monthly basis's.



Library News

Lied Pierce Public Library's Chocolate Lover's Day

by Dawnn Tucker

We had our 22nd Annual Chocolate Lover's Day on February 11th. The Friends of the Library provided all the homemade chocolate goodies. We made \$1,300 to go towards children's programming. The other pictures are from children playing with different makerspace activities.



Bellevue University's Lunch & Learn

Article by Alicia James

Ancient African Civilizations was a Lunch and Learn presentation given by Sierra Whitfield, a staff member at the Bellevue University Library. This presentation provided insight into rulers and kingdoms in Africa such as the Carthaginian Empire, the kingdom of Axum, and the Mali Empire. Ms. Whitfield created this presentation to showcase the rich culture, intelligent leaders, and powerful kingdoms that helped shape Africa's history prior to the modern day. The presentation did a wonderful job diving into the topic through videos and beautiful visual aides to enhance the lecture. For those who are interested in learning more about this subject, the recording of this event is available through the Library's archives [here](#).



Scholarship Experiences

KIND Nebraskans

by Lisa Macke

On Wednesday January 26th we had Humanities Speakers Kevin & Charlotte Endorff visit our library. The program was KIND Nebraskans: a Story of WWII and the Holocaust. I have recently had an increase in readers wanting books about the Holocaust, so this program fit perfectly for my patrons. Kevin & Charlotte have done so much research to provide many stories and information. And I loved that one of our middle school teachers brought the 6th graders to the presentation. It was great that this program corresponded with her teaching. The age range for the audience were age 12 to 90. And everyone was so impressed with all the information. Big thank you to Humanities Nebraska for offering these speakers and to Three Rivers for offering scholarships to help pay for the application fee for Humanities!



2021 Nebraska Makerspace Conference

Article by Lori Porter

I was able to attend the 2021 Nebraska Makerspace Conference in Lincoln thanks to the Three Rivers Library System. The financial help made it possible for me to attend.

Tuesday morning started with a welcome from Rod Wagner, Director, Nebraska Library Commission. Keynote speaker Dr. Shane Farritor, UNL professor & Executive Chair, Nebraska Innovation Studio's Board of Advisors talked on "What is a Makerspace, how do they work, and why are they important". The rest of the day was breakout sessions on how to fund your Makerspace, Programming at your Makerspace, and a tour of the Nebraska Innovation Studio, which I was not able to go on, but did get to see what it looked like inside.

Wednesday was the day of fun! I spent the day watching a demonstration on creating 3D images, looking at Makerspace STEAM kits for kids, playing with Circuit Playgrounds and Legos, (who doesn't want to play with Legos?), and seeing a Makerspace layout using small spaces. This day allowed time to see some items in a makerspace, see them being used and getting to use them, which was a lot of fun.

I also got to visit with other libraries and ask them what works and what doesn't. It was interesting to see what each library likes the most and what gets used the most in their library. This conference has helped me plan what we would like to have in our library and to see what some of the cost will be. Thanks again to Three Rivers Library System for making this possible for me to attend.

Non-fiction, BISAC, and Dewey: A Love Triangle

by Brooke Zarco

My first experience with BISAC and non-fiction was when I came to Blair. Should I say my mind was blown? Kind of, I'll admit. This was a new and different system than what I had ever seen!

BISAC had been applied to the non-fiction section at BPLTC in 2016. Circulation of our non-fiction had been decreasing prior to making the shift to BISAC. Whether or not this was the fault of Dewey, I can't say. Further clouding our statistics on usage was the opening of the new library in 2017. Every section of books in the library saw an increase in circulation. Then the decreasing usage creeps back into the circulation stats. Unfortunately, BISAC had turned against the staff and the patrons. Everyone had to learn to navigate long BISAC labels such as:

Life-Science	History
Self-Help	U.S.A
Mental Health	War-Terrorism
PTSD	9/11
Author's Last Name	Author's Last Name

The length of the labels was intimidating. I've shelved books since I was 14 and I know there was a certain fear factor for me taking out a cart of non-fiction. It also called into question some of the BISAC divisions where books were placed, as with Dewey. I acknowledge that Dewey isn't a perfect system and there are flaws. For us, it seemed that BISAC was becoming more difficult as time had gone on, books were becoming harder to place within the categories that we had implemented.

Our choice was either re-vamp BISAC or return to Dewey. By collective vote, we returned to Dewey. It didn't help BISAC that Dewey numbers are easier to find than which category fit that book. No complaints were raised after switching back to Dewey, we did, however, receive several compliments at the time. We also created sets of signage that better advertise each Dewey categorization, hopefully helping our patrons to better navigate this system.

Proper Library Representation: Leverage Redemption

Article by Adam Breitzkreutz

Pop culture doesn't always portray libraries in a positive light. There is the stereotypical mean-looking older librarian that shushes everyone, to solidify the idea that libraries are home for the homeless and that no person wants to use libraries anymore.

Recently, a series called *Leverage Redemption* had an episode that changed that popular culture trope. For those who may not know, *Leverage Redemption* is follow-up series to an older series called *Leverage*. This franchise follows a group of different criminals with different skillsets to help innocent people wronged by powerful criminals and organizations. This current series stars Gina Bellman as Sophie Devereaux, the team leader, and grifter, Christian Kane, the hitter who handles personal self-defense for the team, among having other unique skills. Noah, Wiley is the inside man against bad guys, Beth Riesgraf, the thief, and Aleyse Shannon, the hacker, as the team in question.

The episode in question is "The Bucket Job." Set in Louisiana, the team is looking forward to taking a holiday break until they meet a young man named Maurice. Maurice talks about the town librarian, Mr. Blanche, played by Levar Burton who has been the town librarian for thirty years. This episode had quite some positive portrayals of libraries and Levar Burton as the librarian.

Maurice discusses an incident from his childhood. Maurice is a gay character, and when he was in fifth-grade bullies often chased him. One time, while running, he decided to duck into the town library. The dialogue during this exchange is quite brilliant, as Gina Bellman's character refers to the library as Maurice's sanctuary. From there, Mr. Blanche protected Maurice and chased away the bullies. When the bullies are gone, Mr. Blanche gets to know Maurice, asking him what he likes to read. Maurice replies only to the bible because his father is a preacher. Mr. Blanche hands him a stack of books from authors such as E.B. White. Maurice is appreciative but feels he can't take them home due to his situation. Mr. Blanche reassures him that he will save the books behind the desk for Maurice to read after school. The exceptional dialogue continues.

Maurice explains to them that reading opened his world to medical school. Maurice wants the team to not go after any bad guys but to create a story that would help make Mr. Blanche feel like an important, appreciated hero for a day.

Christian Kane and Aleyse Shannon's characters observe Mr. Blanche's day-to-day routine to see what he's like and what kind of story they should create for Mr. Blanche. Mr. Blanche sees a patron approach a homeless person sitting in front of an aisle. This patron gets angry and demands that the homeless person leave. The angry patron defends this action saying that he pays his taxes. Mr. Blanche immediately defends the homeless man, telling the patron that the homeless man has every right to be in the library as the patron does. Christian Kane steps in and helps the homeless man, realizing that the man is a veteran, thanking him for his service. After getting to know Mr. Blanche, Christian Kane's character realizes that they should create a spy story for the librarian.

The episode ends up being a fun, exciting story, with great twists, action, and heart showing off how cool Levar Burton's Mr. Blanche is. Along with a funny nod to *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, the episode has a touching ending solidifying Mr. Blanche's heroism with the people he's helped while working in the library.

References

Downey, C. (Writer), & Weinberger, J. (Writer), & Reisgraf, B. (Director). (2021, October 8). The Bucket Job (Season 1, Episode 9) [TV series episode]. In D. Devlin, K. Rorick, M. Roskin, (Executive Producer), *Leverage Redemption* Electric Entertainment.



FRIDAY,
APRIL 1,
2022

WHO: Chris Brailas from Biblionix (via Zoom) and your fellow librarians IN PERSON.

WHAT: Join us for a day of discussion and learning! This will be an open forum with an opportunity for libraries interested in the [Biblionix Apollo ILS](#) to learn more, as well as current users to ask questions, get feedback from your peers, learn how others utilize various features, and more.

WHERE: Seward Memorial Library, 233 S. 5th Street, Seward, NE 68434.

WHEN: Friday, April 1, 2022.

9:00 a.m.	Refreshments, introductions, open forum begins.
12:00 p.m.	Break for lunch.
1:00 p.m.	Open forum continues.
1:30 p.m.	Q&A Session with Chris, open forum continues.
3:00 p.m.	Tentative wrap up.

COST: FREE to attend, although lunch is on your own.

OTHER NOTES:

5 CEU's for Nebraska Certification will be submitted to NLC on your behalf.
Bring a laptop and your EXTERNAL Apollo username/ password if possible.
Masks are optional and attendees will be social distancing.

QUESTIONS can be directed to:

Becky Baker at (402) 643-3318 or Becky.Baker@SewardLibrary.org,
Sarah Johnson at (402) 759-3416 or SJohnson@CityOfGeneva.org

REGISTRATION:

Complete this [ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM](#) for each person attending from your library. Registration deadline is March 28, 2022.
